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U.S. Sanitary Commission
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U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

A meeting of the Associate Members of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and of members of the Commission resident in the city of New York, was held at the rooms of the Century Club, at eight o'clock in the evening of Thursday, the ninth day of January, A. D. 1862, pursuant to the following invitation:

"Sir,

"The Members of the Sanitary Commission, resident in "New York, desirous of the acquaintance, counsel, and sup- "port of the distinguished body of their Associate Members "belonging to this city, ask the pleasure of your company, on "Thursday evening next, January 9th, at 8 o'clock, at the "Rooms of the Century Club, No. 42 East Fifteenth street "(second door East of the 4th Ave.) to meet the Commission "and Associate Members."

"The Mayor is expected to take the Chair at quarter past "eight o'clock."

"New York, Jan. 7, 1862.

"Henry W. Bellows, D. D., George T. Strong,
"W. H. Van Buren, M. D., C. R. Agnew, M. D.,
"Wolcott Gibbs, M. D., E. Harris, M. D."

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The following gentlemen were present:

Henry W. Bellows, D. D.,
George T. Strong,
W. H. Van Buren, M. D.,
C. R. Agnew, M. D.,
Hon. George Opdyke, Mayor.
Frederick S. Winston,
Robert B. Minturn,
Joseph M. Smith, M. D.,
Robert M. Hartley,
Robert H. McCurdy,
John Watson, M. D.,
W. H. Dwinelle, M. D.,
Stewart Brown,
John Steward,
Nicholas Ludlum,
Hon. Charles P. Daly,
Rev. J. Cotton Smith,
Samuel B. Ruggles,
George F. Allen,
Rev. Samuel Osgood, D. D.,
Charles E. Butler,
Prof. H. B. Hitchcock, D. D.,
Anderson, M. D.,
Charles P. Kirkland,
Howard Potter,
John Ordronaux, M. D.,
Wolcott Gibbs, M. D.,
E. Harris, M. D.,
Frederick Law Olmsted,
A. C. Richards,
Benjamin H. Field,
Benjamin W. McCready, M. D.,
Rev. Francis Vinton, D. D.,
Alexander H. Stevens, M. D.,
Hon. Horace Greely,
Stephen Smith, M. D.,
Cyrus W. Field,
John H. Griscom, M. D.,
John W. Draper, M. D.,
Charles L. Brace,
Joseph B. Collins,
Austin Flint, M. D.,
John C. Peters, M. D.,
Alonzo Clark, M. D.,
William F. Cary.,
Jonathan Sturges,
William E. Curtis,
Willard Parker, M. D.,
J. Green Pearson,
Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D. D.

At a quarter past eight, his Honor George Opdyke, Mayor, was called to the chair, and Mr. George F. Allen appointed Secretary of the meeting.

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The chairman addressed the meeting, impressing the great value of the services the Sanitary Commission has rendered and is now rendering the nation, and the urgent necessity which exists for the prompt accomplishment of the object to further which the present meeting was specially convened—the thorough reorganization of the medical department of the Army.

The Rev. Dr. Bellows, chairman of the Sanitary Commission, then addressed the meeting, laying before it the present condition of things in the medical department of the army, the pressing necessity of some official and efficient machinery for providing for and regulating the sanitary condition of the troops, and the considerations which render a complete and thorough renovation and reorganization of the medical department of the army absolutely indispensable. He informed the meeting that a bill had been prepared by members of the Sanitary Commission, in consultation with General McClellan, which, after being submitted to, amended, and approved by the War Department, had been moved in the United States Senate by Senator Wilson.

Dr. Van Buren then gave the meeting the history of the present Medical Department of the Army, and in a more detailed and professional way, the practical defects of the present system in our Army, contrasting it with the system now existing in the Armies of France and England, and then proceeded to read the bill prepared by the Commission, amended by the War Department, and now pending before the Senate of the United States, as follows:

"An Act to provide for the reorganization of the Medical "Department of the Army."

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives "in Congress assembled, that the Medical Department of the "Army shall be constituted as follows:"

"SEC. 1. There shall be one Director-General who shall have "the rank, pay, and emoluments of a Brigadier General, and "who shall, as Chief of the Medical Corps, perform the duties "now assigned to the Surgeon-General, and such others as may "be required by law and regulation. There shall be one San- "itary Inspector-General, who shall have the rank, pay, and "emoluments of a Colonel of Cavalry, and who shall, under "the Director General, have the general supervision of all that "relates to the Sanitary condition of the Army, whether in "quarters or in camps, and with the hygiene, police, discipline, "and efficiency of Field and General Hospitals, under such "regulations as may be hereafter established."

"There shall be eight Sanitary Inspectors, who shall have "the rank, pay, and emoluments, each, of a Lieutenant-Colonel "of Cavalry, and who shall be charged with the duty of in- "specting the Sanitary condition of Quarters and Camps, of "Field and General Hospitals, and who shall report to the "Sanitary Inspector-General, under such regulations as may be "hereafter established, all circumstances relating to the San- "itary condition and wants of troops, and of Hospitals, and to "the skill, efficiency, and good conduct of the officers and at- "tendants connected with the Medical Department."

"There shall be not exceeding forty Surgeons of the first "class, who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments, each, of "a Major of Cavalry, and who shall ordinarily be assigned to "Staff, Bureau, and Hospital duties."

"There shall be not exceeding fifty Surgeons of the second "class, who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments, each of "a Captain of Cavalry, and shall ordinarily be assigned to duty "with regiments."

"And there shall be not exceeding one hundred assistant-"surgeons, who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments each "of a first-lieutenant of cavalry, and who shall perform such "duties as are now required of assistant-surgeons."

"There shall be not exceeding one hundred medical cadets, "who shall not be less than eighteen, nor more than twenty-"three years of age at the time of entering, who shall be "examined by a Board of Medical Officers, in such branches of "medical and sanitary science as the Director-General may "order. After three years of continuous medical service, and "on their producing proper testimonials of character from the "medical officers with whom they have served, they may be "examined for promotion by a board of medical officers of the "Army. They shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments of "the highest grade of non-commissioned officers of the Army."

"There shall be as many hospital stewards as the exigencies "of the service may require from time to time, to be designated "by a Sanitary Inspector, on the recommendation of the senior "surgeon of the post, division, regiment, or military depart-"ment where their services may be required, and they shall "have the rank, pay, and emoluments of first sergeants of "cavalry."

"Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, that immediately after the "passage of this Act, it shall be the duty of the president to "select from the Medical Corps of the Army suitable persons

"to fill the offices of Director-General, Sanitary Inspector-
"General, and Sanitary Inspectors. *Provided*, That no one
"shall be appointed to either of said positions who shall have
"attained the age of sixty years."

"SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, that promotion in the
"medical corps, up to the grade of surgeon of the first class in-
"clusive, shall be by seniority; but that the grades of Director-
"General, Sanitary Inspector-General, and Sanitary Inspectors,
"shall be filled by selection from the whole corps, and by such
"officers as shall have shown their peculiar fitness for such
"positions."

"SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, that the surgeons of
"the first and second classes provided for by the first section of
"this act shall be appointed from the medical corps of the army
"as at present organized, and in accordance with the require-
"ments of section third of this Act; and that the consequent
"vacancies in the grade of assistant-surgeon shall be filled by
"appointment from civil life: *Provided*, that no one shall be
"appointed an assistant-surgeon of the Army, or promoted to
"the grade of surgeon of the first or second class, until he shall
"previously have been examined by a board of army medical
"officers, and found qualified, physically, morally, and in
"medical and sanitary attainments, for the office, and the
"adequate performance of its duties."

"SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, that so much of the
"act of
"as allows additional rations to surgeons, and assistant surgeons,
"upon the completion of ten years service in their respective
"grades, be, and the same is hereby repealed."

"SEC. 6. And be it further enacted that every medical "officer of the army, who has attained the age of sixty-five "years, or on attaining that age, shall be retired from active "service, and shall be entitled to receive the pay and emolu- "ments allowed to officers of corresponding rank by the act of "1861."

"SEC. 7. And be it further enacted that all acts, and parts "of acts, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be, and "the same are hereby repealed."

After the bill had been read, Mr. Sturgis, after some introductory remarks, moved certain resolutions with preambles.

These resolutions were seconded by Dr. Alonzo Clark, who supported them in an address to the meeting.

The Honorable Horace Greeley, Professor Ordronaux, Rev. Dr. Osgood, Dr. Watson, Mr. McCurdy, Judge Daly, Dr. McCready, Dr. Griscom, Dr. Alexander H. Stevens, Dr. Joseph M. Smith, and Dr. Harris, all spoke in support of the bill and resolutions, making, at the same time, some suggestions as to matters of detail for the consideration of the meeting.

On the motion of Judge Daly, duly seconded, the third resolution was amended.

On the motion of Mr. Ruggles, duly seconded, another resolution, making the fifth in order, was added to the four offered by Mr. Sturges.

Thereupon the resolutions so amended and added to, were put to the vote, and passed unanimously, as follows:

Whereas, the efficiency of our troops, the economy of our treasury, the confidence of the People at home, and the success of our national cause, finally depend as much upon the *health* of the Army, as upon great generalship, hard fighting, sound legislation, or good financiering—and

Whereas, the health of every army is largely dependent on the constitution and efficiency of its Medical Department, and its disposition and ability to employ all human preventive and curative methods, with foresight, energy, and zeal—and

Whereas, the existing Medical Department of the United States Army being skilfully adapted to the economical and simple wants of the few thousand men hitherto, happily, competent to our national need, is, on this very account, far behind the wants of an army of more than half-a-million of men :—

Therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That the humanity and intelligence of the American People demand that the vast body of citizen-soldiers now in the field, fighting for the life of the Nation, shall not be without the protection of the most efficient medical organization known to military experience in any part of the world.

2. *Resolved*, That the existing organization of the Medical Department of the Army, in which *seniority* is the sole law of promotion, and a colonelcy the highest grade of assimilated rank attained, is incompatible with the due importance of the Department; destructive to that spirit of emulation essential to great services; fatal to the rise of merit and high qualifications to the control of affairs; and deadening to the efficiency of the Department.

3. *Resolved*, That this meeting earnestly urges upon Congress the passage of a bill substantially such as has been introduced into the Senate, a copy of which is appended, for the re-organization of the Medical Department—raising it more nearly to the level of the position now occupied by the Medical Departments in England and France; securing to it the full reliance of the government and the hearty confidence of the public; and enabling it by the invigoration it would acquire, under the administration of men of middle age, proven qualifications, and first-rate energy, to meet the humane expectations of the Nation and secure the largest possible amount of health and efficiency among our troops.

4. *Resolved*, That these resolutions, signed by the officers of this meeting, and by such of the members of this body as feel their truth and urgency, be transmitted to the chairmen of the Military Committees in both Houses of Congress, to the Commander-in-Chief, to the Secretary of War, and to the President of the United States.

5. *Resolved*, That the Associate Members of the Sanitary Commission now assembled, earnestly invite their fellow-citizens, and especially the Chamber of Commerce, and the Associated Banks, to exert their influence to secure the passage of Senator Wilson's bill (above referred to), with proper modifications.

After which, on the motion of Mr. McCurdy, duly seconded, it was referred to the Chairman of this Meeting, and to the Chairman of the Sanitary Commission, to appoint a committee of five, to visit Washington for the purpose of procuring the

passage of the bill above mentioned. Such reference being made to the Chairmen with power.

After which the meeting adjourned.

GEO. F. ALLEN,
Secretary.

GEORGE OPDYKE,
Chairman.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION IN NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN.

Frederick S. Winston,
Alfred C. Post, M. D.,
Peter Cooper,
Robert L. Stuart,
Robert B. Minturn,
William H. Aspinwall,
Alexander T. Stewart,
Moses Taylor,
Robert C. Goodhue,
George T. Trimble,
Valentine Mott, M. D.,
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A. C. Richards,
William E. Curtis,
Rev. Alex. H. Vinton, D. D.,
Howard Potter,
Charles P. Kirkland,
Prof. John Ordronaux,
Benjamin R. Winthrop,
Rev. Sullivan H. Weston, D. D.,
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Hon. Hamilton Fish,
James Lenox,
Charles H. Marshall,
John J. Astor, Jr.,
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Benj. McCready, M. D.,
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Rev. Wm. A. Mulenberg, D. D.,
Wickham Hoffman,
Rev. Dr. Storrs,
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Hon. Horace Greely,
Bradford R. Alden,
John Bonner,
Stephen Smith, M. D.,
Richard Grant White,
W. Harding,
John Bigelow,
Wm. C. Hall,
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Rev. Samuel Osgood, D. D.,
Dr. Edmund R. Peaslee,
Charles A. Dana,
Most Rev. John Hughes, D. D.,
George Hall,
Gurdon Buck, M. D.,
Thomas H. Faile, Jr.,
Ernest Krackowitzer, M. D.,
William H. Osborn,
Charles E. Butler,
Rev. G. H. Post, M. D.,
Col. Delafield, U. S. A.,
Maj. A. B. Eaton, U. S. A.,
R. S. Satterlee, M. D.,
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Jacob Harsen, M. D.,
William P. Palmer,
George Gibbs,
R. A. Witthaus,
Lewis M. Rutherford,
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Rt. Rev
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Joseph B. Collins.
John McCall, M. D.,
Austin Flint, M. D.,
John C. Peters, M. D.,
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Samuel D. Babcock,
John T. Agnew,
Edwin Hoyt,
Prosper M. Wetmore,
Thomas H. Faile,
Major-Gen. John A. Dix, U. S. A.,
Charles M. Connelly,
William V. Brady,
Henry E. Pierrepont,
George Griswold,
William Paton,
David Hoadley,
Alonzo Clark, M. D.,
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